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SCR 87 (Migden) Light Brown Apple Moth

SCR 87 calls for a moratorium on aerial spraying as a part of the Department of Food and Agriculture's effort to eradicate the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) until the Department can demonstrate that the pheromone it intends to use is both safe to humans and effective at eradicating the LBAM.

Background:

The LBAM is originally from Australia and was first detected in California in March of last year. The LBAM has been found in 10 bay area counties which include Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Solano. According to the Department of Food and Agriculture aerial spraying is necessary in all of the 10 affected bay area counties.

The US Department of Agriculture is still testing the efficacy of the aerial spraying of pheromones to disrupt the mating of the LBAM. This testing is currently being done in New Zealand and has not been completed so the effectiveness of the pheromone is still unknown.

In late 2007 Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties were doused with a pheromone called CheckMate to disrupt the mating of the LBAM. After this aerial spraying there were over 600 health complaints tallied.

SCR 87:

Calls for a moratorium of any aerial spraying to eradicate the LBAM until the Department of Food and Agriculture determines that the pheromone is both safe for humans and effective.

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